

Commissioner Talking Points for Outreach to Potential Grant Applicants

What is Serve Idaho?

- The State Commission on Service and Volunteerism. Every state has a commission who is charged with administering AmeriCorps funding in their respective state.
- Made up of Commissioners that are appointed by the Governor. Commissioners represent unique geographic areas and disciplines as outlined in the Executive Order signed by the Governor.
- Funded by Federal funds provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Who can apply for AmeriCorps Grants?

- Nonprofit organizations
- State and local governments
- Institutions of higher education
- Native American Tribes

Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding: AmeriCorps funding is designed to provide funds to bring on new volunteers (AmeriCorps members) to address an unmet need in a community.

Funding Focus: Although Serve Idaho and CNCS place a priority on funding grants that fall into one of the below funding areas, we still consider funding applications that do not fit into a funding focus.

- **Education:** provide services that contribute to improved educational outcomes for children; provide services that contribute to improved school readiness; provide services that prepare students' for success in post-secondary educational institutions.
- **Healthy Futures:** provide services that address the opioid crisis; increase senior's ability to remain in their own homes; increase physical activity and improve nutrition with the purpose of reducing obesity.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** support responsible stewardship of the environment; conserve natural habitats; protect clean air and water; maintain public lands; support wildland fire mitigation; provide reforestation services after floods or fires.
- **Veterans/Military Families:** positively impact the quality of life of veterans and improve military family strength; increase the number of veterans, military service members, and their families served by CNCS programs; increase the number of veterans and military family members engaged in service through CNCS programs.
- **Economic Opportunity:** increase financial literacy, build low cost homes, assist individuals in transitioning into or remaining in safe, healthy, affordable housing; assist individuals in improving their employability.
- **Disaster Services:** increase individuals' preparedness for disasters; improve individuals' readiness to respond to disasters; help individuals recover from disasters.



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What members can do: Members should be primarily engaged in direct service. They should participate in activities that provide a direct, measureable benefit to an individual, group or community.

Examples include: tutoring, mentoring, job search assistance, career counseling, conducting health screenings, trail construction and maintenance, teaching health education classes, teaching environmental education classes.

Amount of Funding Available:

- Serve Idaho receives \$1.2 million annually to award for AmeriCorps programs.
- Grant sizes vary, and are directly tied to the amount of members being requested. Typically awarded grants have ranged between \$150,000-\$300,000.

Benefits for the community:

- AmeriCorps members increase the capacity of local organizations to address unmet needs in communities.
- AmeriCorps members become advocates for the local community and the organization in which they serve.
- AmeriCorps members bring expertise, energy, passion and a fresh perspective to the organization in which they serve.

Benefits for the member:

- All members who complete their term of service receive an education award that can be used to pay for future school or pay down student loans (\$5,920 for a full-time member).
- AmeriCorps is an excellent opportunity to build professional skills, career networks, and a path to future employment.
- AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance determined by Congressionally approved appropriations. Living allowances vary by the term of service to which a member commits (minimum of \$13,992 for a full-time member).

General Grant Guidelines:

- Application process opens in the fall of each year. Visit the Serve Idaho funding page for the most recent request for proposal timeline.
- Successful applicants must: submit an intent to apply form, attend training and technical assistance call, and submit an application.
- Applications are limited to 10 pages of narrative.
- Serve Idaho provides grants for a three year AmeriCorps project.
- Organizations interested in applying should have strong financial management.

For more information:

Contact: heather.uhi@labor.idaho.gov

Or visit: https://serveidaho.gov/Portals/0/Funding/Americorps_Grant_flyer_March_2017.pdf



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